



Kickapoo Valley Reserve

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<http://kvr.state.wi.us>

Winter 2016

Dear Homeschool Workshop Parents and Students:

Hello! We are excited to welcome you to the upcoming Friday Homeschool Workshops at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. We know that you will enjoy the fun day and many hands-on activities we have planned for you. To make your visit here a success, please review the following guidelines and let us know if you have any questions!

Directions to the KVR Visitor Center: If you need directions to the Kickapoo Reserve Visitor Center, we recommend you use the link, "How to Find Us", found on our website:

<http://kickapoovalley.wi.gov/About-Us/Contact-Information/Directions>. MapQuest, GPS and other mapping programs are not known to be very accurate in the Kickapoo Valley.

Adult Responsibilities: To help our instructors give full attention to their students (and to conserve on space in classrooms), we ask that parents with infants, toddlers and small children plan to either drop their older children off or wait in the lobby/exhibit space while children are in class. (Feel free to hike, explore and check in with your older children as needed.) Adults without small children are welcome to help out as needed in classrooms but are not required to stay.

Arrival/Departure/Schedule: In order to help us get started with classes in a timely manner, we ask that you arrive *at least* 15 minutes prior to the start of the afternoon program. Please check in at the front desk each day upon arrival. Our staff will have name tags for each child and will be able to direct you to the classroom where your child's program will begin.

Snacks: If you feel your child will need something to eat during the afternoon, please pack a small, healthy snack (something that can fit in a pocket like a granola bar or nuts and dried fruit work well) for them. Children will have a 15 minute break between the two afternoon classes.

Evaluations: Feedback is important and valuable to our staff and management board. We will send program evaluations via email after the conclusion of the workshops. Please take a few minutes to fill one out.

Refunds and Cancellations: Friday workshops will be canceled by the KVR only in the event of poor travel conditions (identified by local school closings). The KVR will try to re-schedule the canceled workshop for another Friday; refunds will be issued if participants are unable to attend the re-scheduled date.

Appropriate Dress: Dressing appropriately is extremely important for field trips to the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. Almost all of our classes will have an outdoor component, and students will be walking on and off trails. Please make sure that students dress for the weather (warm boots, hats and mittens are a must). Layers are always appropriate.

A Few Words about Ticks: They are present here at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve! While ticks are not something to be overly concerned about at this time of year, when temps rise above 40 degrees ticks can become active. So remember to check your children if it's been a warm winter day. The CDC has more information available here: http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/geographic_distribution.html.

The Facility and Grounds: The Visitor Center is equipped with public restrooms, classrooms, meeting room space, and a small conference room as well as a large, hands-on exhibit area and lobby. Because the Visitor Center is open to the public, other guests may stop in to visit while your group is here; and of course guests will continue to use the facility after your departure. We ask that groups treat the facility and grounds with respect thus enabling other groups' enjoyment of the area. We ask that groups follow a "leave no trace" ethic when on the grounds, being sure not to leave litter, and that they properly dispose of garbage and recyclables in the building. Any damage other than normal wear and tear will be charged to the participants and/or sponsoring group.

Gift Shop: The Friends of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve maintain a small gift shop that has several items for sale including books about the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, t-shirts, collector plates, post cards, and several kid-friendly nature items. Students and adults are welcome to purchase items either before or after your programs. We ask that adults accompany students in the gift shop.

Additional Programs: We truly hope that your child(ren) enjoy our workshops. If you would like to book additional programming for your homeschool group, you can find more information on our website, <http://kickapoovalley.wi.gov/education>, or by calling me to discuss details. In addition, we offer week-long, nature awareness summer camps for all ages. Registration for those camps will be opening in February 2016, so keep your eye on our website if you are interested. Lastly, we send out a once/month email informing you about upcoming programs and events at the KVR. If you would like to be added to that list, just send me an email and let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

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